

Application Serial No. 10/631,876
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2006

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Docket: CU-3619
DEC 18 2006

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 11-25 were pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1-3 have been withdrawn; claim 11 has been canceled; and claims 12-18, 20 and 22-25 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action claim 11 stands objected to due to an informality of a phrase being repeated twice. The Applicant has subsequently canceled claim 11 without prejudice and therefore removed the basis for this objection. Furthermore, the Applicant has amended the claimed subject matter of claim 11 into claim 14 and the Applicant has eliminated the duplication of this repeated phrase. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully contends that this objection to claim 11 should be withdrawn.

In the office action, claims 11-13, 15, 17, 18, 20, and 22-25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 43 28 853 (hereinafter "DE'853").

Regarding claim 11: The Applicant has subsequently canceled claim 11 and has merged the subject matter of claim 11 into the amended claim 14. Since the Examiner has indicated in this Office Action that claim 14 is allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim 11, then amended claim 14 has been placed into allowable form.

Regarding claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-25: The Applicant has subsequently amended claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-25 to depend upon now allowable claim 14. Claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-25 have been amended to depend upon allowable independent claim 14. As such, newly amended claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-25 incorporate by reference all the claim limitations

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contained therein within allowable base claim 14. Accordingly, claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-25 are also believed to be allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the anticipation rejection to dependent claims 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-25.

In the office action, claims 11, 16 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 3,832,110 (hereinafter Hehl).

Regarding claim 11: The above arguments are equally applicable here in that claim 11 has been canceled and the subject matter in claim 11 has been amended into claim 14. Therefore the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of claim 11.

Regarding claim 16: The above arguments are equally applicable here in that newly amended claim 16 now depends on allowable claim 14. Therefore the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of claim 16.

Regarding claim 21: The above arguments are equally applicable here in that claim 21 is dependent on newly amended claim 20 which in turn depends upon allowable claim 14. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of claim 21.

In the office action, claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE '853 in view of the Applicant's admitted prior art.

The above arguments are equally applicable here in that newly amended claim 19 has been amended to depend upon allowable claim 14. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this anticipation rejection of claim 19.

In the office action, claim 14 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim 1. However, the Examiner has indicated that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form by including all of the limitations found in

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the respective base claim 11. The Applicant has subsequently amended claim 14 into independent form by including all of the limitations found in the respective base claim, i.e., claim 11. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection to claim 14.


Therefore, the Applicant respectfully contends that claims 12-25 are all in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-25, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and earnestly solicits an indication of allowable subject matter. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

When issuance of a Notice of Allowance is proper in the next action, the Examiner is authorized to cancel the withdrawn claims, for which the Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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